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54, such as a switch or contact plates 54, preferably mounted within power means recess 55 whereby the signal means 51 is only activated when the warning arm 30 is pivoted into the horizontal position. As shown, the warning arm 30 may be provided with an actuator shoulder 37 for contacting the actuator means 54 when the arm 30 is disposed in the horizontal position. Likewise, additional passive warning devices, such as other hanging panels, streamers, sheets, etc. could be attached to the warning arm 30, provided that all such additional devices can be stored within pocket 17 when the warning arm 30 is retracted.

It is contemplated that certain equivalents and substitutions for various elements outlined above may be obvious to those skilled in the art. The true scope and definition of the patent therefore is to be as set forth in the following claims.

We claim:

1. A hazard warning sign for attachment to a horizontally disposed shelf having a front edge, the sign comprising:

(A) a generally vertically disposed housing having a generally extended vertical dimension, a relatively shorter lateral dimension, and a thin thickness dimension, said housing comprised of a first face member and a second face member which together define a generally vertically disposed pocket therebetween to receive a warning arm;

(B) shelf mounting means attached to said housing for mounting said housing onto the front edge of the shelf such that said housing extends generally perpendicular to the front edge of the shelf, where said shelf mounting means comprises a sign bracket attached to said housing and a shelf bracket attachable to the shelf, said sign bracket and said shelf bracket joined by a hinge member; and

(C) a warning arm pivotally connected to said housing, said warning arm positionable in both a vertical and a horizontal position, where said warning arm is disposed within said pocket in said vertical position and is extended laterally from said pocket in said horizontal position.

2. The sign of claim 1, where said hinge member has a pivot axis which is inclined from true vertical when said mounting means is mounted on the shelf.

3. The sign of claim 2, where said hinge member pivot axis is inclined approximately 20 degrees from true vertical.

4. The sign of claim 1, where said housing has a generally vertically extending mounting flange received by said sign bracket and said hinge member has a pivot axis which is inclined relative to said mounting flange such that said housing can pivot from the position generally perpendicular to the shelf front edge.

5. The sign of claim 4, where said hinge member comprising means to allow said housing automatically returns to the position generally perpendicular to the shelf front edge when any force pivoting said housing from the generally perpendicular position is removed.

6. The sign of claim 1, where said sign bracket is generally U-shaped in cross-section.

7. The sign of claim 6, where said housing further comprises a generally vertically extending mounting flange generally circular in cross-section, said mounting flange having a number of support flanges extending therefrom, where said sign bracket receives said mounting flange and one of said support flanges is seated atop said sign bracket.

8. The sign of claim 7, where said sign bracket further comprises a pair of detents extending upward from said sign bracket which abut said one of said mounting flange support flanges to preclude separation of said mounting flange from said sign bracket in the direction perpendicular to said shelf front edge

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9. The sign of claim 1, further comprising signal means chosen from the group consisting of audible signal means and visible signal means.

10. The sign of claim 9, where said signal means activate automatically when said warning arm is disposed from said pocket.

11. A hazard warning sign in combination with a horizontally disposed shelf having a front edge, the sign comprising:

(A) a generally vertically disposed housing having a generally extended vertical dimension, a relatively shorter lateral dimension, and a thin thickness dimension, said housing comprised of a first face member and a second face member which together define a generally vertically disposed pocket therebetween to receive a warning arm;

(B) shelf mounting means attached to said housing for mounting said housing onto the front edge of the shelf such that said housing extends generally perpendicular to the front edge of the shelf, where said shelf mounting means comprises a sign bracket attached to said housing and a shelf bracket attachable to the shelf, said sign bracket and said shelf bracket joined by a hinge member; and

(C) a warning arm pivotally connected to said housing, said warning arm positionable in both a vertical and a horizontal position, where said warning arm is disposed within said pocket in said vertical position and is extended laterally from said pocket in said horizontal position.

12. The sign of claim 11, where said hinge member has a pivot axis which is inclined from true vertical when said mounting means is mounted on the shelf.

13. The sign of claim 12, where said hinge member pivot axis is inclined approximately 20 degrees from true vertical.

14. The sign of claim 11, where said housing has a generally vertically extending mounting flange received by said sign bracket and said hinge member has a pivot axis which is inclined relative to said mounting flange such that said housing can pivot from the position generally perpendicular to the shelf front edge.

15. The sign of claim 14, where said hinge member comprising means to allow said housing automatically returns to the position generally perpendicular to the shelf front edge when any force pivoting said housing from the generally perpendicular position is removed.

16. The sign of claim 11, where said sign bracket is generally U-shaped in cross-section.

17. The sign of claim 16, where said housing further comprises a generally vertically extending mounting flange generally circular in cross-section, said mounting flange having a number of support flanges extending therefrom, where said sign bracket receives said mounting flange and one of said support flanges is seated atop said sign bracket.

18. The sign of claim 17, where said sign bracket further comprises a pair of detents extending upward from said sign bracket which abut said one of said mounting flange support flanges to preclude separation of said mounting flange from said sign bracket in the direction perpendicular to said shelf front edge.

19. The sign of claim 11, further comprising signal means chosen from the group consisting of audible signal means and visible signal means.

20. The sign of claim 19, where said signal means activate automatically when said warning arm is disposed from said pocket.

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